

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Parties, D.T.E. 99-118

FROM: Robert J. Howley, Hearing Officer

DATE: January 16, 2001

RE: Procedural Schedule

CC: Mary L. Cottrell, Secretary

Service List

Staff as Assigned

On December 19, 2000, the Department held a procedural conference in the

above-captioned matter. The Attorney General of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts ("Attorney General") and Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company ("Fitchburg" or the "Company") participated in the conference and were directed to submit proposed procedural schedules by the close of business on December 22, 2000.

The Attorney General requests that Fitchburg file an Answer to the Petition. The Attorney General requests ten business days after filing of the Company's Answer in which to file a response, likely in the form of a motion for summary judgement or a request for a hearing (Attorney General Proposed Schedule at 2). The Company requests that it be given

until January 16, 2001 to file an Answer to the Petition. The Company also requests two weeks to reply to any response by the Attorney General (Fitchburg Proposed Schedule at 1-2).

After consideration, the Department issues the following procedural schedule:

Discovery Period Begins January 5, 2001

Company's Answer January 16, 2001

Attorney General's Pre-Filed Testimony February 9, 2001

Company's Pre-Filed Testimony March 2, 2001

Close of Discovery Period⁽¹⁾ March 16, 2001

Evidentiary Hearings April 2-3, 2001

Simultaneous Initial Briefs April 17, 2001

Simultaneous Reply Briefs April 24, 2001

In the event that the Attorney General files a response to the Company's Answer in the form of either a motion for summary judgement or a request for a hearing, all parties

shall have ten business days from the date of filing to respond. The filing of such a motion shall not delay the conduct of the proceeding. See 220 C.M.R. § 1.04(5)(b).

1. March 16, 2001 is the last date to issue discovery. All responses to discovery will be due no later than five business days after issuance.